



Draft Minutes from the June 10, 1999 Meeting

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, 1999, in the Large Laboratory Conference Room on the Fernald site. The meeting was advertised in local papers and was open to the public.

Chair
James C. Bierer

Vice Chair
Thomas E. Wagner

Members
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Louis Doll
Pamela Dunn
Jane Harper
Darryl D. Huff
Michael Keyes
Kenneth A. Moore
Robert G. Tabor
Fawn Thompson
Gene E. Willeke

Ex Officio Members
L. French Bell
Jack Craig
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell

Members Present

Jim Bierer
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin Clawson
Jack Craig
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn
Mike Keyes
Gene Jablonowski
Graham Mitchell
Robert Tabor
Fawn Thompson
Thomas Wagner
Gene Willeke

Members Absent

French Bell
Lou Doll
Jane Harper
Darryl Huff
Ken Moore (excused)

Support Staff
Phoenix Environmental
Douglas J. Sarno
Crystal M. Sarno
Gwen Doddy
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Designated Federal Official

Gary Stegner

Phoenix Environmental Staff

Douglas Sarno
Gwen Doddy

FDF Staff

Tisha Patton
Sue Walpole

Approximately 9 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives from Department of Energy and Fluor Daniel Fernald.

1. Call to Order

Chair Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Announcements and New Business

Jim Bierer received a letter from Representative Portman in response to Recommendation #99-2. Representative Portman responded that he would work to try to get additional funding for the disposition of Fernald's nuclear materials. Dick Telfer sent Bierer an article about the Transportation Workshop, which he wrote for a Nevada newspaper. Telfer, who attended the workshop, wrote that the people he spoke with enjoyed the workshop and were very pleased with the organization and the number of Fernald Citizen Advisory Board (FCAB) members involved in the workshop.

On March 22, 1999, Secretary Richardson came to the Fernald site for safe shutdown celebrations. He spoke with Lisa Crawford and other community members. However, he did not have time to officially meet with a member of the FCAB.

Leah Dever is transferring from the Ohio Field Office to the Oak Ridge Operations Office. The FCAB will miss working with her. Bierer suggested writing a thank you and best of luck letter to Dever. Susan Brickbill from Hanford will be replacing her.

Bierer asked the Department of Energy (DOE) if they had any announcements. Johnny Reising answered that the first shipment of special nuclear materials left for Portsmouth. There will be approximately 155 trucks shipping to Portsmouth over a two-year period. Lisa Crawford asked if there were any protesters. Reising answered that there were no protesters. Bierer asked if the funds for the shipments were in the budget. Reising answered the cost will be absorbed into the total site budget.

Rising also announced that three trains of materials from Waste Pit 2 have gone to Envirocare.

Bierer asked for announcements from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Graham Mitchell distributed the Fernald Annual Report to the board members. Mitchell met Susan Brickbill and said she seems focused on working with the FCAB.

Doug Sarno asked to change the September meetings to the 8th, 9th, and 11th. The FCAB agreed.

3. Cattle Grazing Leases on the Fernald Site

Doug Sarno clarified the history of the FCAB's actions on cattle grazing. In 1994 and 1995, the FCAB discussed cattle grazing extensively and requested that an independent technical review be conducted to assess the health concerns associated with cattle grazing on site. The ultimate conclusion of the FCAB was that cattle grazing presented little direct health threat, but was not an appropriate use for property on a radioactive waste site. Verbal recommendations were made to the DOE to phase out grazing as soon as the leases on the property expired and certainly no later than the beginning of active site remediation. However, since the final report had not yet been developed, a specific recommendation was never provided to DOE in writing. The final report recognizes only that agricultural use is not an appropriate future use for the Fernald site.

On June 7, 1999, the OEPA provided recommendations to DOE suggesting that it review project schedules prior to drawing conclusions on grazing schedules and that all grazing cease before impacting any site schedules. OEPA also recommends that cattle fences be moved away from Paddys Run to help improve riparian zones.

The northern wood lot (Area 8, Phase II) is a potential site for the reburial of the Native American remains and has some potentially sensitive cultural resource areas. Because the Native American reinterment will probably not occur for another year, the cattle grazing will not effect this process until then.

Although none of the northern wooded area has been officially surveyed, Joe Schomaker said he knows there are some mounds, thermal features, and graves in that area. Because Native American remains are often found along creek banks, he is concerned that erosion along the banks of Paddys Run may destroy some remains.

Gene Willeke asked if past leases had restricted the number of cattle allowed to graze in an area. Karl Summe answered the past leases never restricted the number of cows. Willeke suggested that future leases restrict the number of cattle.

Tom Wagner asked what DOE's interest is in renewing the lease. Reising answered that DOE's only interest is to be a good neighbor. Wagner asked whether Summe's land bordered the site. Summe answered that his land borders to the east of the site.

Lisa Crawford was very concerned about having the cows graze in such close proximity to the waste pits, especially since the remediation of the waste pits is scheduled to start in July. She believes that having the cows on a radioactive waste site is not appropriate and the cows should be removed before the remediation of the waste pits starts, due to the potential for contamination of the milk. Sarno reminded her that the FCAB did have an independent technical review conducted to assess the health concerns associated with cattle grazing on site and the review found there was little direct health threat. Graham Mitchell added that studies have shown uranium becomes concentrated in a cow's bones, not its milk. Crawford was still concerned about the possible health threat due to the waste pit remediation.

Marvin Clawson believes the cows should not be grazing during the wet winter months because the cows cause the most erosion during the wet months. He thinks the cattle should be only allowed to graze from May to October.

The points the FCAB wants to make in a recommendation to DOE are:

- Cattle grazing is an inappropriate use for property on a radioactive waste site
- Move the fences back from Paddys Run to allow the regrowth of riparian zone
- The cattle grazing can have no impact on the remediation costs or schedule
- Limit the possibility of the cows damaging cultural remains
- Fences need to be maintained by lessee
- Limit grazing in wet months
- Limit the number of cattle allowed
- Limit the length and provide flexibility to cancel leases
- Monitor contamination of land and cattle

Sarno will draft a recommendation based on these points and send it to the board members for their review and comments.

Bierer opened the floor to public comment concerning cattle grazing.

Edwa Yocum asked Summe if he could lease other land to graze his cows. Summe stated that there is not any land available for cattle grazing.

4. Endorse Results of Transportation Workshop

Wagner gave a quick overview of the Transportation Workshop. Approximately 125 people attended, consisting of 48 SSAB members representing 11 sites. On the chairs' conference call on June 8, 1999, Martha Crosland stated that she had just received the letter from Wagner relaying the Transportation Workshop's statements. She would not be able to respond to the letter by the requested date. Wagner suggested to her that she write a letter to the chairs informing them of the delay.

Wagner was asked by Fred Butterfield to attend the EPA Community Relations Conference in May. The EPA Community Relations Conference consisted of representatives from citizens groups from the sites of the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy. The experience was enlightening for Wagner; he realized the DOE's Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) have more latitude and more impact than groups from other agencies.

Sarno presented a letter written to James Owendoff relaying the FCAB's approval of the Transportation Workshop's statements. With some minor rewording, Crawford motioned to accept the letter. Bob Tabor seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved.

As a result of the 1999 SSAB Transportation Workshop, SSABs at DOE sites have decided to form an inter-site working group to focus on issues related to the transportation of radioactive materials and waste. Initial membership in the Working Group will be made up of one member from each of the ten SSABs that attended the

1999 Transportation Workshop, with membership from additional sites welcome. There will be a conference call on June 23, to work out the logistics of the first meeting to coincide with the TEC/WG conference July 13-15 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The FCAB will be taking the lead in the development of the group. The FCAB needs to select a representative for the Working Group. Because Wagner was Chair of the Transportation Workshop, Wagner would be an obvious choice; however, he will not be in town the day of the conference call nor the dates of the first meeting. Wagner nominated Willeke. Unfortunately, Willeke is also not available. Bierer nominated Fawn Thompson. Thompson will check her schedule and with her employer and let Sarno and Bierer know if she is available.

5. Discuss Response to Leachate Piping Leaks

Sarno asked John Bradburne what steps have been taken by Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF) to ensure a problem similar to the leachate piping leaks does not happen again. Bradburne answered that the white metal box incident, which occurred two years ago, was an indication of a larger management problem. After that incident, he changed the management procedures, which placed project managers in charge of quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC). Moreover, Bradburne now meets with all contractors and subcontractors to explain FDF's QA and QC procedures and ensures the contractors and subcontractors agree to those procedures. Bradburne informed the FCAB that the installation of the leachate piping system and the white metal box incident occurred simultaneously; therefore, the quality systems which are in place now, were not in place at the time of installation of the leachate system. Bradburne gave an example of the effectiveness of the new management system. When the water purification system was installed, a FDF manager discovered welds which were not standard. International Technologies Group (IT), the company installing the welds, agreed to replace all the welds.

Dennis Carr added that a technical review board now evaluates all the equipment bought and used and a peer review process evaluates design changes. If the white metal box had been purchased today, the technical review board would have evaluated the changes and questioned their effectiveness.

At meetings and workshops, Crawford often hears the white metal box incident used as an example of the dangers of shipping radioactive materials. She would like a fact sheet, explaining the steps taken by FDF to show the public that a similar incident will not occur again. When this incident is cited in a newspaper, she suggested sending the fact sheet to the editor, explaining that although the incident happened a similar one could not occur.

Bradburne agreed to develop a fact sheet, which will explain the steps taken to ensure quality control and quality assurance. He will also develop a brief summary of risk assessment procedures.

Bierer thanked Bradburne and Carr for speaking with the FCAB. Bierer reminded the FCAB members to attend the DOE briefings and committee meetings.

6. Public Comment

Bierer opened the floor to public comment.
There was none.

7. Adjournment

Jim Bierer adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the
June 10, 1999, meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

_____	_____
James Bierer, Chair	Date
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board	

_____	_____
Gary Stegner	Date
Designated Federal Official	